

March 1, 1977

Dr. Aaron Novick
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University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon 97403

Dear Aaron,

It alarms me more and more that so many years are going by and we do not seem to have many occasions to get together. Our little girl may be quite grown up before you have a chance to see her! Any chance of your remedying that?

Anyhow, the particular point of my writing to you now is that I have been trying to collect various historical tidbits and get them on the record before they disappear completely. I believe you told me a story once, the inside story of the genesis of the interrupted mating and or "PA AMO" experiments in which you had some part which was not manifest from the uninformed reading of the published record. If you could either point me to some place where this has been printed, or put it down on the record for me right now, I would be most grateful to you. I hope I do not have to assure you about my reasonable discretion in using material of this kind, so the more candid it can be the better.

In your comments in the Szilard book you made some references to Delbrück's intransigent skepticism and some particular experiments that you had started to do but then found they were already tucked away in some tables already published. Do you think you could recall the particulars?

Anyhow, the first part of this letter is more important than the second; the best of all would be to find some way of getting good news in response to all of it.

With all my best,

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics